

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00607 132235Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: JOHN TURNER RESIGNS COMMONS SEAT

1. FORMER FINANCE MIN JOHN TURNER ANNOUNCED FEB 12 THAT HE WAS RESIGNING HIS COMMONS SEAT (OTTAWA-CARLETON) TO JOIN TORONTO LAW FIRM. NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED TO RUN FOR CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP, TURNER MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE REMAINS A LIBERAL. DESPITE HIS DEPARTURE FOR LAW JOB REPORTEDLY PAYING IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PER YEAR, TURNER SUGGESTED THAT HE WAS NOT ENTIRELY OUT OF POLITICS BY ANNOUNCING HIS INTENTION TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES OF THE DAY VIA PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

2. COMMENT: THERE IS APPARENTLY SOME GRUMBLING IN LIBERAL PARTY THAT TURNER TIMING HAS DONE IT AGAIN. HIS RESIGNATION FROM FINANCE FIVE MONTHS AGO WAS JUST BEFORE ONTARIO ELECTIONS AND SOME CLAIMED THAT THIS HURT PROVINCIAL LIBERAL CHANCES BY DEMONSTRATING DISARRAY AND DISENCHANTMENT WITHIN THE PARTY. NOW SUCH CRITICS CLAIM THAT TURNER'S GIVING UP HIS SEAT ON EVE OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) LEADERSHIP CONVENTION PLAYS RIGHT INTO HANDS OF CANDIDATE BRIAN MULRONEY. IF ELECTED PC LEADER, MULRONEY WILL NEED A PARLIAMENTARY SEAT AND TURNER'S FORMER SEAT IS A POSSIBLE PROSPECT, THOUGH LIBERAL REGISTRATION IS HIGHER THAN PC'S. MOST OF THIS APPEARS TO BE HAND-WRINGING BY TURNER LIBERAL PARTY RIVALS OR OPPONENTS WHO BELIEVE THAT

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00607 132235Z

TURNER'S LUCRATIVE FLYER IN THE LAW IS TEMPORARY BREAK IN

HIS PLANS FOR LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP. ENDERS

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